



UCCA ELECTION OBSERVER MISSION SUCCESSFULLY CONCLUDES

As in previous years, the UCCA hosted a delegation of International Election Observers to monitor Ukraine's snap presidential election on Sunday, May 25th. The UCCA Mission deployed 222 international observers to monitor the Parliamentary elections in 14 oblasts of Ukraine, as well as at diplomatic missions in the United States.

On the day following the elections, UCCA Co-Mission Heads, Tamara Olexy and Andrij Futey, issued the following preliminary statement of the UCCA International Election Observer Mission at the *Ukraine Crisis Media Center* in Kyiv:

PRELIMINARY STATEMENT: Ukrainians Demonstrate their Commitment to Democracy

The Ukrainian Congress Committee of America's International Election Observer Mission, which observed the elections in every region of Ukraine, including- Cherkasy, Dnipropetrovsk, Ivano-Frankivsk, Kharkiv, Kherson, Kyiv, Lviv, Mykolaiv, Odesa, Poltava, Sumy, Zakarpattia, Zaporizhya, and Zhytomyr; as well as at the diplomatic posts in the United States, affirms that the May 25th elections met international standards for free and fair elections and accurately reflect the will of the Ukrainian electorate.

Despite minor infractions...the 222 officially registered UCCA International Election Observers who visited over 600 polling stations reported that the voting process was conducted in a peaceful, transparent and democratic manner.

The UCCA abhors the Soviet-style methods used by the Russian-backed armed separatist to disrupt the elections in the East. Despite these violent and intimidating tactics, the UCCA commends the brave citizens of Donetsk and Luhansk who cast their ballot in the presidential elections. Moreover, the UCCA lauds the thousands of Ukrainian citizens of Crimea, including the Crimean Tatar community, who risked their personal safety to exercise their civic duty and traveled long distances to vote.

The UCCA further applauds the Ukrainian government's and Central Election Commission's efforts to utilize every means available to ensure that the May 25th elections took place.

The UCCA stands with the people of Ukraine in their desire for a united and democratic country and wishes the newly elected president strength in normalizing and stabilizing the situation in Ukraine for the furtherance of democracy. We stand together with the Ukrainian people in their desire for real reforms, including, first and foremost, an end to endemic corruption, which will ensure the further development of Ukraine's economy, democratic institutions, and Eurointegration.

And lastly, the UCCA expresses its sincere gratitude to its delegation, who volunteered their time and money to participate as International Election Observers – their commitment to democracy must be commended.

The UCCA Final Report of its International Election Observer Mission can be found on the UCCA website at www.ucca.org

UCCA "ELECTING A NEW PRESIDENT" PROGRAM REACHES 7 MILLION LISTENERS

The UCCA implemented a far-reaching civic education program prior to the May 25 presidential elections in Ukraine. The program, "Electing a New Ukrainian President," broadcast Town Hall meetings from May 12 to May 20 in the studios of oblast radio stations in seven cities of eastern and southern Ukraine: Chernihiv, Kharkiv, Poltava, Kirovohrad, Dnipropetrovsk, Zaporizha and Odessa. The UCCA invited all 21 presidential candidates to participate, broadcasting the Town Hall meetings to over 7 million listeners. The program featured an hour long live broadcast, aired at prime time, which familiarized listeners with the platforms of Ukraine's presidential candidates.

Oleksandr Piddubny, a journalist with years of experience in television, radio and online media, served as moderator of the Town Hall meetings. Broadcasts were divided into sub-topics featured in the platforms of most presidential candidates: security, power/energy conversion, reporting and control of the election process, and foreign policy.



Town Hall participants in Odessa and Kharkiv

The goal of "Electing a New Ukrainian President" was to build confidence in the interactive relationship between citizens and their elected officials. The program did not support any one candidate; rather it encouraged Ukraine's voters to acquaint themselves with each candidate's platform and position, empowering them to make a rational and considered decision on May 25.

The entire "Choosing a New President" series is available online at MixCloud - <http://www.mixcloud.com/UCCA/>.

Financial support for the program was received from the National Endowment for Democracy (NED) and supported by the U.S. Embassy in Ukraine.

UCCA EXECUTIVE MEMBERS HOLD MEETINGS IN KYIV

During the UCCA International Election Observer Mission, UCCA President Tamara Olexy and UCCA Executive Vice President, Andriy Futey, held a series of meeting with government officials in Kyiv to discuss the current situation in Ukraine, Russian aggression in Ukraine, UCCA's ongoing efforts and dealings with the US Congress and Senate, as well as the White House and US State Department and the UCCA's Delegation of International Election Observers.

The UCCA met with Prime Minister Arseniy Yatseniuk; First Vice Prime Minister Vitaliy Yarema; Deputy Foreign Minister Danlyo Lubkivsky; U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine Geoffrey Pyatt; and US Senator Rob Portman (R-OH) and Senator Ben Cardin (D-MD).



Meeting with Vice Prime Minister Yarema

Vice Prime Minister Yarema, a retired lieutenant-general of police and former head of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, addressed UCCA's security concerns for its International Observers and underscored the volatile situation in the Donetsk and Luhansk regions of Ukraine. He stated that the government was doing everything possible to make sure that the elections took place, but that they could not guarantee anyone's safety in the above stated oblasts.

During the meeting with Ambassador Pyatt, the UCCA raised several issues of importance to the Ukrainian American community, specifically, the need for military equipment and technologies for Ukraine, and continued US support. The UCCA also thanked the Ambassador for his generous offer of hosting a reception for the UCCA's Delegation of International Election Observers following the elections.

UCCA JOINS UWC ACTION TO REVOKE RUSSIA'S PRIVILEGE TO HOST THE 2018 WORLD CUP

The UCCA calls on its members and friends to join the grassroots effort to revoke Russia's privilege to host the 2018 FIFA World Cup.

Following the Ukrainian World Congress' (UWC) lead, the UCCA sent a letter on May 30th, to the President of the Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA), Joseph S. Blatter, calling for FIFA to revoke the privilege of Russia to host the 2018 FIFA World Cup.

In its letter, the UCCA underscored President Putin's blatant violations of international law, stating in part: "Russia's invasion and illegal annexation of Crimea and its continued support of Pro-Russian separatists to destabilize the situation in Eastern Ukraine violates the principles on which FIFA are based and undermine the spirit of sport."

An integral member of the UWC, the UCCA supports their efforts and "urges FIFA to add its voice to the condemnation by the international community of Russia's actions by revoking Russia's privilege to host the 2018 World Cup, an honor of which Russia has proven itself unworthy."

Moreover, the UCCA supports the "United with Ukraine" project that was developed to persuade significant corporate sponsors to withdraw their brands and financial support of the 2018 World Cup until FIFA revokes Russia's privilege to host the 2018 World Cup. This campaign launched a website www.BoycottPutinNow.com which includes an informative online video to help highlight the hypocrisy of FIFA and its major corporate partners.

UNIS ACTION ITEM: STATE VISIT FOR PRESIDENT POROSHENKO

Ukraine successfully elected its newest president on May 25th. International monitoring organizations, including the UCCA, reported that the vote was free, fair, and transparent. Now the monumental task of rebuilding Ukraine looms large for the nation and its newly-elected President, Petro Poroshenko.

Support from the U.S. is crucial in transforming Ukraine into a vibrant democracy that is fully integrated into Euro-Atlantic structures. The acknowledgement of Ukraine's tremendous achievements in conducting a free and fair election and the existing strategic partnership between the two countries should be manifested by extending an invitation to President Poroshenko to travel to Washington. The UCCA calls upon its membership to urge the White House to invite President Poroshenko for a State visit. For a sample letter or for more information please contact the UNIS office at (202) 547-0018 or at unis@ucca.org.